

May 29, 1915, “German Foreman Sent To Internment Camp”

On May 29, 1915, the *Port Arthur Daily News* reported on the removal of a CPR work shop foreman, Oscar Grottke. Grottke was removed from his position on the 28th of May by the CPR police after which he was handed over to city police. From the city police he was then accompanied by two guards from the Ninety Sixth regiment and sent to the German internment camp at Brandon.ⁱ The reason for his arrest and removal was due to pro-German sentiments and his failure to register with authorities as other ‘aliens’ had done.ⁱⁱ Although Mr. Grottke had applied for naturalization papers shortly after the war broke out, the decision not to grant naturalization papers to ‘alien enemies’ until hostilities were over had meant that he was refused naturalization.ⁱⁱⁱ After being refused naturalization, Grottke also refused to register as an ‘alien.’ In addition, he also gloated about pro-German victories on the war front which led to concern amongst the CPR staff which lead to his dismissal.^{iv} Upon his dismissal from the shops, it is alleged that he threatened to do damage to CPR property, and since he had considerable knowledge as to the movement of the trains, Mr. Eoll and military authorities decided to intern Mr. Grottke right away.^v

References

“German Foreman in C.P. Shops Sent to Internment Camp.” *Port Arthur Daily News*, 29 May, 1915.

ⁱ “German Foreman in C.P. Shops Sent to Internment Camp.” *Port Arthur Daily News*, 29 May, 1915.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Ibid.

German Foreman in C.P. Shops Sent to Internment Camp

**Dismissed Because of Anti-British Talk — He is
Considered Dangerous Because of His
Knowledge of Railway.**

The C.P.R. police at Fort William yesterday afternoon removed from the work shop, Oscar Grottke, who had been employed as shop foreman. The C.P.R. police handed their captive to the city police, and this morning, Grottke, accompanied by two of a guard from the Ninety-Sixth regiment left for the German internment camp at Brandon. Grottke had been in the employment of the C. P. R. for ten years, and was thirty-seven years of age.

The reason for the action of the C.P.R. police in arresting Grottke was mainly his pro-German sentiments, while his failure to register, with all other aliens, was also a charge laid against him.

On August 15, ten days after Britain declared war on Germany, Grottke applied for naturalization papers, but the applicants were referred to the spring assizes, where it was decid-

ed that no naturalization papers would be issued to alien enemies before the end of hostilities. Grottke refused to register, and Mr. George Eoll, alien registrar at Fort William, yesterday gave authority to the C. P. R. police to arrest him.

The C.P.R. police had previously been warned about statements attributed to Grottke, and the workmen at the shops were unable to retaliate since Grottke was in a position to dismiss them. He gloated over the Lusitania incident so much that the C.P.R. officials were forced to dismiss him. His dismissal roused him, and it is alleged that he threatened to do damage to C.P.R. property. As he had been in a responsible position on the railway, and knew every movement of trains, he was considered a dangerous enemy, and between Mr. Eoll and the military authorities, it was decided not to grant him his parole but to intern him immediately.